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A RESTITUTION OF DECAYED INTELLIGENCE (More History of the California Historical Society).

Mr. H. R. Wagner,
California Historical Society.

My Dear Sir:

About the year 1605, in England, one Richard Verstegan, deploring the fact that the people of his generation were ignorant of many historical facts which had occurred during a preceding generation, felt it his duty and pleasure to recall to his contemporaries many of these matters, which he proceeded to do in a volume entitled

"A RESTITUTION OF DECAYED INTELLIGENCE".

I am reminded of this work and its peculiar title on reading the publication of the California Historical Society (of March 27, 1922,) in which an outline history of that society and its predecessors of like name is given.

It appears that one episode in the lives of the California Historical Society had escaped the notice of your historian, that is its consolidation with the California Genealogical Society during the years of 1902 to April 18, 1906, and subsequent separation by fire.

The evidence that has survived the fire of April, 1906, covering this fact I beg to submit herewith as a "restitution of decayed intelligence."

This can best be done by quoting from the original Minute Book of the California Genealogical Society, fortunately preserved from the fire and now before me.

Page 1. "On Saturday, February 12th, 1898, at 2:00 o'clock P. M. Col. A. S. Hubbard, T. A. Perkins Esq., Edgar Hobart and Miss Sarah Louise Kimball met with Dr. E. S. Clark in his office at No. 16 Geary Street, San Francisco.

Col. Hubbard was made Chairman and the meeting resolved itself into a Society to be known as the California Genealogical Society."

Page 2. "February 19th, 1898, meeting held at same place

and hour as the meeting of the previous week and completed organization by the election of the following officers, namely:

President: Dr. Edward S. Clark,
 Vice President: Col. A. S. Hubbard,
 Corresponding Secretary: Miss Sarah Louise Kimball,
 Recording Secretary: T. A. Perkins Esq.,
 Librarian: Mrs. Walter D. Mansfield,
 Treasurer: T. W. Hubbard."

This staff of officers continued in office until the death of Dr. Clark on May 29, 1900, whereon Col. Hubbard acted as President until the election of Mr. Herbert Folger at the annual election of 1903.

It was during the time that Col. Hubbard presided that he conceived the idea of consolidating his practically inoperative society, the California Historical Society, with the California Genealogical Society. At the meeting at which the proposal to consolidate the two societies and their libraries was introduced, both Horace Davis and Col. Hubbard spoke in favor of it. To effect the consolidation it was necessary to amend the constitution of the Genealogical Society.

Page 63. Jan. 4, 1902. "Mr. Teggart moved that a committee be appointed to consider the proposition of enlarging the scope of the society, seconded by Mrs. W. D. Mansfield and on a vote the motion carried, whereon the President appointed Mr. Teggart, Mrs. Mansfield and Mr. Robt. E. Cowan as such committee."

Page 66. Feb. 1. "Mr. Teggart chairman of committee on enlarging scope of the society reported that the name of the publication about going to press should be entitled 'California Historic-Genealogical Register.' Report received, and on motion duly made and seconded was duly adopted."

Page 69. Mar. 1. "Mr. Teggart, chairman of committee to enlarge scope of the society, offered an amendment to the constitution as follows:

- 1st.—Change the name of the society from its present form to 'California Historic-Genealogical Society' and
- 2nd.—add to objects of the society, 'and California Local History'

and gave notice that he would move the adoption of these amendments to the constitution at the Quarterly General Meeting of the society to be held in July, 1902."

Page 73. July 12. "Under unfinished business, the question of amending the constitution was put to a vote and the amendments were unanimously adopted."

Thus it was that the Historical Society was consolidated with the Genealogical Society under the composite title of "California Historic-Genealogical Society." This state of affairs continued until the fire of April 18, 1906, at which time the entire library of this society was destroyed and it ceased to function until February 16, 1908.

After the consolidation the following circular was prepared and issued, which has the new form of seal showing the composite title:

CALIFORNIA HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The purposes of this organization are, to collect, preserve, and disseminate information on Genealogy and California Local History; to ascertain the location and condition of the various public and private records, which are or may become accessible to students of Genealogy and American History; and, to aid investigations of this nature by combining the efforts and resources of its members. It seeks to direct public attention to the value of complete and exact records, and to emphasize the necessity of unremitting care in their collection and preservation.

The society will publish and exchange genealogical and historical information.

Meetings are held quarterly on the first Saturday in January, April, July and October of each year.

Members are required to file with the Corresponding Secretary a chart or diagram, showing the various lines of their ancestry, as far as known. Charts will be furnished upon application.

The society is composed of resident, honorary, and corresponding members.

In pursuance of the objects herein mentioned, the society desires your co-operation, and cordially invites you to become a member. May 1, 1903.

Following the fire the first meeting of the society was held at the Fairmont Hotel on Feb. 16, 1908, where a reorganization was effected, officers elected, plans for restoring a library were formed and a determination to live down the disaster of the fire created. After discussion, it appeared that the strictly genealogical section was of the most importance, that a divided interest would be more than the officers could successfully carry on, and that the upbuilding of a new library

would be all that could be successfully accomplished. It was therefore moved and adopted that the society resume its original name of California Genealogical Society, and leave the field open to a future revival of the California Historical Society, as a sister society, whenever time and personnel should be available. The original seal was therefore again used and a circular issued under its original title.

During the existence of the dual form, the society issued one important publication known as publication No. 3, a well-edited and well-printed work of 86 pages, containing the following important items: I. Edward Stephens Clark, M. D., With Portrait, By William E. Loy; II. Spanish Press of California, (1833-1844), Robert E. Cowan; III. The Boston Nation, Zoeth S. Eldredge; IV. The Utility of a Pedigree, Stephen S. Herrick; V. Meles of Hawaii, H. B. Phillips; VI. A California Pioneer, (José Francisco de Ortega and his descendants), Zoeth S. Eldredge; VII. Thomas Pope of Plymouth and His Descendants, Overton Choules Pope; VIII. Notes of the Millikan Family, Millard F. Hudson; IX. A Few of the Descendants of John Wilgus, Edgar Hobart; X. George Hull and Some of His Descendants, Clinton T. Hull; XI. Announcement; XII. Contributions to the Library; XIII. Notes and Queries; XIV. Historical Intelligence including Genealogies in Preparation; XV. Index to Names and Places. This publication is now practically unobtainable, all the reserve stock having been destroyed in the fire.

Very truly yours,

HENRY BYRON PHILLIPS,

Librarian,

California Genealogical Society.